

ABSTRACT

Phase I archaeological and historic structures surveys have been completed for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) proposed State Route (S.R.) 15 (Canterbury Road) Improvements, Holly Hill Road (K447) to Airport Road (K407) project located near Milford (Milford Hundred), Kent County, Delaware. The project is located on the Milford, Delaware 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle, in the Upper Peninsula portion of the Eastern Shore Coastal Plain.

The archaeological project Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of an irregularly-shaped test area totaling 2.27 ha (5.61ac) along the west side of S.R. 15 (Canterbury Road). A large portion of the area was plowed agricultural fields when the survey was conducted; however, a small grassy and wooded area was also present. Both subsurface excavations and pedestrian reconnaissance were used to survey the project APE. No previously identified archaeological resources are present in the project APE and only a few non-diagnostic historic period artifacts were identified on the modern ground surface. Based on this lack of archaeological evidence, no prehistoric or historic period archaeological resources were identified in the project APE.

The historic structures project APE was defined in consultation with DelDOT to include areas of direct construction impacts as well as visual and similar secondary effects to 19 properties along S.R. 15 (Canterbury Road), S.R. 14, and Holly Hill Road (K447). No previously recorded historic properties are located within the project APE, and only 14 of the 19 properties located in the project APE meet the pre-1960 construction date criterion. None of these 14 properties exhibit unaltered architectural distinction or association with persons or events important to history; therefore, none are recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Based on the limited scope of the proposed roadway work, the lack of previously identified archaeological or historic properties within the project APE, the presence of modern disturbances to the sediments, and the lack of cultural remains and historic structures with associations to persons or events important to history, the S.R. 15 Improvements project, as currently designed, will not affect any resources listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP, and no further cultural resources research is warranted.